

Zettel et al.

S/N: 09/681,573

In the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method to electronically publish media to a document management system comprising the steps of:
 - accessing an electronic data file;
 - receiving a publication instruction from a document creation application to publish the accessed data file;
 - initializing a publication enabler capable of converting a data file into at least one publication format in response to the publication instruction, wherein the publication enabler is independent of the document creation application used to create the electronic data file;
 - selecting a publication format via the publication enabler;
 - if necessary for publication to the document management system, converting the accessed data file directly into another publication format; and
 - publishing the data file in at least one publication format to a document management system.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of publishing further comprises step of storing the data file in memory of a computer according to storage criterion of the document management system.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of routing a publication notification to at least one of an approving supervisor and a work flow recipient from the publication enabler.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one publication format includes at least one of an RTF, IITML, PDF, TIFF, JPEG, GIF, BMP, and fax compression format.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of publishing further comprises the step of transmitting the data file and a plurality of document parameters to the document management system, wherein the data file and plurality of document parameters are configured to enable the document management system to automatically assign a coded filename, a storage location, and a file identifier to the data file.

Zettel et al.

S/N: 09/681,573

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of retrieving the data file from the document management system based on any of the file identifier, coded filename, storage location, and document parameters, wherein the document parameters include at least one of an author, a title, a subject, a format, an approver, and a work flow recipient.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the publication instruction is a print command and further comprising the step of initializing the document management system publication enabler with any application capable of printing the electronic data file.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage device having stored thereon a program that when executed by a computer causes the computer to:

identify a command from a media creation application to manage an electronic media;

access the electronic media;

initialize a media publisher independent of the media creation application and configured to control publication of the electronic media to a document management system, wherein the media publisher is further configured to transform the content of the electronic media into at least one publication format;

receive a media control instruction from the media publisher to transform the content of the electronic media into at least one publication format; and

publish the content of the electronic media directly into the at least one publication format in accordance with the received media control instruction and storage rules of the document management system.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage device of claim 8 wherein the at least one publication format includes media formats foreign to the media creation application.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage device of claim 8 wherein the at least one publication format includes at least a portable document format, a hypertext markup language, an x-markup language, a rich text format, a JPEG format, a GIF format, a TIFF

Zettel et al.

S/N: 09/681,573

format, encryption formats, a bitmap format, compression format and electronic messaging formats.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage device of claim 8 wherein the computer is further caused to transmit the content of the electronic media to the document management system to store the content of the electronic media in a readily identifiable data file according to the rules of the document management system.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage device of claim 8 wherein the computer is further caused to receive more than one media control instruction and simultaneously transform the content of the electronic media into more than one format.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage device of claim 8 wherein the computer is further caused to initialize the media publisher in response to a print command from the media creation application.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage device of claim 8 wherein the computer is further caused to retrieve the content of an electronic media from the document management system by using at least one of a plurality of publication parameters associated with the published content of the electronic media.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage device of claim 8 wherein the computer is further caused to electronically transmit the content of the electronic media to at least one of a supervising approver and a workflow recipient.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon and embodying a sequence of instructions that when executed by a processor causes the processor to:

- (A) access an electronic data file in response to at least one of an application print command and application open command;
- (B) display a graphical user interface (GUI) configured to facilitate user selection of a number of publication commands;
- (C) receive a user selection of at least one publication command;

Zettel et al.

S/N: 09/681,573

(D) route the electronic data file to a converter configured to convert the electronic data file directly into at least one of a number of publication formats compatible with a document management system; and

(E) transmit the at least one converted data file to at least one publication system capable of publishing the converted data file in the at least one publication format to the document management system.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor to display the GUI in response to a document management instruction.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 17 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor to execute acts (A) through (E) in response to a user print instruction.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor to recognize a user print instruction from any software application capable of printing the electronic data file.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16 wherein the number of publication commands include a publish command, a compress command, and a number of conversion commands including a convert to PDF command and a convert to HTML command.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16 wherein the number of publication formats include PDF, JPEG, GIF, TIFF, HTML, XML, RTF, TXT, DOC, encryption, PPT and ZIP.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor to retrieve an electronic data file from a document management system capable of storing the electronic data file.

Zettel et al.

S/N: 09/681,573

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor to route the converted data file to a supervisor and a subsequent document designate.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor, in response to a user instructions, displays a listing of document approving supervisors.

25. (Previously Presented) A system for publishing documents to a document management system comprising:

a computerized network

a readable memory electronically linked to the network;

a plurality of computers connected to the network, wherein at least one of the plurality of computers, displays electronic data to a user in the form of a graphical user interface (GUI);

a processing unit programmed to call the GUI on demand and enable a user selection of one or more publication formats, wherein the one or more publication formats conform to document management system parameters and include publication formats non-native to a creation document format; and

wherein the processing unit is further programmed to convert a document to at least one of the publication formats and call the GUI directly from the application used to create the document a user desires to publish.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25 wherein the processing unit is further programmed to automatically generate a document management system document identifier and assign the document management system document identifier to the document.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25 wherein the processing unit is further programmed to automatically assign document management system publication parameters, wherein the document management system parameters include at least one of a document category, document format, document approval, and document workflow.

Zettel et al.

S/N: 09/681,573

28. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the processing unit is further programmed to display a list of a number of supervisors approving and a list of a number of work flow document recipients upon a user instruction.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 wherein the processing unit is further programmed to route the document to at least one of a supervising approver and/or a work flow document recipient upon a user instruction.

30. (Canceled)